

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-4WASHINGTON TIMES
16 MARCH 1983

Justice probing links between U.S. and Nazi murderer Klaus Barbie

BY A WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF WRITER

Allan Ryan, a pleasant, bearded man with a wry sense of humor, has been given a most unpleasant task: to trace the links between Nazi mass murderer Klaus Barbie and the U.S. government.

Ryan, head of the Justice Department's office of Special Investigations — a 50-member branch with the continuing assignment to pursue Nazis — said he will work solely on the Barbie case until his report is finished. He said he hopes he can complete it in about three months.

Ryan started a preliminary investigation on Feb. 11, five days after Barbie was expelled from Bolivia and taken to France, where he is awaiting trial as the Gestapo's "Butcher of Lyon" from 1942 to 1944.

Attorney General William French Smith had resisted launching a full investigation. Ryan's recommendation after his preliminary probe, however, was to go ahead, and Smith, under mounting pressure from Congress and the White House, agreed.

The Defense and State departments, the CIA, the FBI and the Immigration and Naturalization Service all have turned over files to Ryan.

Ryan said the process is slow and painstaking, requiring him to pore through reams of papers, looking for clues.

INS has turned up records showing that Barbie, under the alias Klaus Altman, entered the United States four times from 1969 to the early 1970s, a passport issued to Bolivian officials.

Former U.S. Army intelligence officers have said they were ordered to shelter Barbie from the French following World War II. They said Barbie was paid the then-large sum of \$1,700 a month to cooperate with American intelligence.

Barbie moved to Bolivia in 1951. He has been tried in absentia twice in France and sentenced to death both times.

"There is enough to go on that a full investigation is warranted," Ryan said yesterday. "What I will do is a full report to the attorney general and the assistant attorney general setting forth the facts of Klaus Barbie and his relationship to the United States from 1946 onward.

"It is anticipated that report, or as close as possible to that report, will be released publicly."